

IN THE CLAIMS

A listing of currently active claims follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet which has a thickness of from 0.05 to 1 mm, a weight per a unit area of from 60 to 250 g/m², a bending resistance (L) as determined by the 45° Cantilever method of 6 cm or higher, and an in-plane volume resistivity of 0.2 Ωcm or lower.

wherein the sheet comprises a binder or a product of carbonization of the binder in an amount of from 10 to 40% by weight and comprises carbonaceous fibers bonded to one another with the binder or its carbonization product through point contact.

Claim 2 (Original): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, which has an air permeability as determined in accordance with JIS L 1096, method A (frazil method) of from 50 to 150 cm³/cm²•sec, the air permeability being a measure of the gas-diffusing properties of the sheet.

Claim 3 (Original): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, which has a thickness of from 0.1 to 0.5 mm.

Claim 4 (Original): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, which has a weight per a unit area of from 80 to 200 g/m².

Claim 5 (Original): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, which has a bending resistance (L) as determined by the 45° Cantilever method of 8 cm or higher.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, which comprises carbonaceous fiber monofilaments having a diameter of from 6 to 50 μm .

Claim 7 (Original): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, which has an in-plane volume resistivity of 0.07 Ωcm or lower.

Claim 8 (Original): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, which comprises carbonaceous fibers fused to one another.

Claim 9 (Original): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, which comprises carbonaceous fibers bonded to one another with a binder or a product of carbonization of the binder.

Claim 10 (Original): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, which contains a binder or a product of carbonization of the binder in an amount of from 0.01 to 25% by weight and comprises carbonaceous fibers bonded to one another by surface coating with the binder or its carbonization product.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 10, which contains the binder or a carbonization product thereof in an amount of from 0.01 to 7% by weight.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are ones obtained by spraying or applying a dispersion of fine particles of a semicured thermosetting resin, optionally conducting drying, pressing or both drying and pressing, and then completely curing the resin.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, which is a woven fabric.

Claim 15 (Original): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, which has a degree of fluffing of from the second to the fifth grade in terms of the index as determined through a fluff grade test.

Claims 16-29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell which employs the conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1 as a gas diffusion layer material.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Original): A motor vehicle having the solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell as claimed in claim 30 mounted therein.

Claim 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Original): A cogeneration power system having the solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell as claimed in claim 30 installed therein.

Claim 35 (Canceled).

Claim 36 (Original): A solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell which employs the conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 14 as a gas diffusion layer material.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): A solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell which employs the conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 15 as a gas diffusion layer material.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are oriented.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are axially oriented to one another.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carbonaceous fibers are twisted yarns.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The conductive carbonaceous-fiber sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the point contact is a particle of a thermosetting resin.